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ABSTRACT

Household socioeconomic characteristics in nonmetropolitan areas of the New England states and New Jersey were examined to determine if differences existed among communities according to their growth status--growing, stable, declining. Data for the regional analysis came from 2,141 interviews; chi-square was used to test for significant differences for qualitative variables and grouped data. Variables examined were age and sex composition, household size, length of residency, income of household, education attainment, and major activity of head of household. The general finding was that there are differences according to growth status: declining areas have (1) relatively high dependency ratios, (2) relatively high proportion with less than 12 years of schooling, (3) relatively lower incomes, and (4) wages, salaries, and self-employment earnings reported less frequently as income sources while retirement and transfer payment sources were more frequent. The results have important implications for policy questions concerning state and national support and aid for community facilities and services since communities in declining areas are shown to be less able to draw upon households to finance these facilities and services. (RS)

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Households in the Nonmetropolitan Northeast: Differences Among Growing, Stable, And Declining Areas

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Bulletin 846

HOUSEHOLDS IN THE NONMETROPOLITAN NORTHEAST: DIFFERENCES AMONG GROWING, STABLE, AND DECLINING AREAS

A NORTHEAST REGIONAL
COMMUNITY SERVICES STUDY

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HOUSEHOLDS IN THE NONMETROPOLITAN NORTHEAST: DIFFERENCES AMONG GROWING, STABLE, AND DECLINING AREAS, Nelson L. LeRay and Donn A. Derr, Cook College, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin Number 846

Abstract

This report is one of a series of reports prepared under Regional Research Project NE-77, Community Services for Nonmetropolitan People in the Northeast. The unit of analysis is the household in which the household characteristics are examined by the growth status. The general finding was that there are differences in household socioeconomic characteristics among communities on the basis of their growth status.

Household characteristics including composition, income, length of residence, and educational attainment and labor force status of the head of household are described.

Key words: Growth status, Community services, Nonmetropolitan Northeast, Chi-square.

PREFACE

This report presents findings from an overall study of community services for nonmetropolitan people in the Northeast. Three regional research reports, covering selected aspects of the study, have been published:

> Donn A. Derr, Louis A. Ploch and Robert O. Sinclair (eds). Methodological Considerations in Researching Community Services in the Northeast: A Northeast Regional Community Services Study. Rutgers University Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 836, September 1975.
>
> Nelson L. LeRay, Donn A. Derr, and Edmund F. Jansen. Elderly Households in the Nonmetropolitan Northeast and Their Satisfaction with Community Services: A Northeast Regional Community Services Study. Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 646, March 1977.
>
> John P. Kuehn. Satisfaction with Community Services in the Northeast: A Northeast Regional Community Services Study. Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 647, May 1977.

This is the first in a series of regional reports dealing with differences among areas on the basis of their growth status. This report provides information on sampling and data collection and analytic procedures and demographic and household characteristics. It is intended primarily as a background or introduction to other reports in the series which will report findings on housing, health, legal and other services.

The authors wish to express their appreciation to Director C.E. Hess, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. Thomas A. Carlin, Leader, Income Studies Program, Economic Development Division, Economic Research Service for support and assistance in conducting this research project. Special acknowledgement is made to Dr. Charles O. Crawford, Chairman, NE-77 Technical Committee, and Elinor Caravella, Project Assistant for NE-77, located at The Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station for administrative and technical assistance. A special debt of gratitude is owed the citizens of the nonmetropolitan Northeast who provided the information and insight that made this report possible.

The research on which this report is based was conducted under the Regional Research Project NE-77, Community Services for Nonmetropolitan People in the Northeast.

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HOUSEHOLDS IN THE NONMETROPOLITAN NORTHEAST: DIFFERENCES AMONG GROWING, STABLE AND DECLINING AREAS

by

Nelson L. LeRay and Donn A. Derr*

Introduction

The Post World War II period (1945-1970) was characterized by a continual and rapid movement of people from rural to metropolitan centers. This movement was brought about by adoption of agricultural technology and increased off-farm employment opportunities. As the population centers grew there was also a dispersal of households with a subsequent formation of the suburbs at the periphery. Shortly after the turn of the present decade there was a convergence of the following trends nationally -- growing disutility of urban living, completed adjustment of the agricultural sector to excess labor resources, growing job opportunities in rural areas -- all of which were manifested in an unprecedented phenomenon - a "turnaround" in migration from urban to rural areas.

While the population of metropolitan counties grew by 4.1 percent between 1970-75, the growth rate was 6.6 percent for nonmetropolitan counties (Beale, 1977). Nonmetropolitan counties adjacent to Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA) grew by 7.3 percent and nonadjacent nonmetropolitan counties, by 5.9 percent. However, these national trends were not uniform across all areas. High growth counties were characterized by: immigration of retired people; expansion of state colleges; decentralization of manufacturing and other industry; increased recreation activity; and apparent higher birth rates. Counties with at least a third of their employment in agriculture, or those with predominantly black population, or with a significant military population experienced population decreases (Beale).

In response to the growing problem of adequately providing community services for nonmetropolitan people in the Northeast, a regional project was initiated. The study focused on health, education, housing and legal services. This report presents data on the characteristics of households in the nonmetropolitan Northeast.

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Regional Site Selection, Sampling and Data Collection Procedures

Source of Data

This report is one of a series of reports prepared under Regional Project NE-77,[1] Community Services for Nonmetropolitan People in the Northeast[2]. For purposes of the regional study, nonmetropolitan people were defined as residents of counties with a 30 percent of greater rural population in 1970. This criterion was employed to include those SMSA counties which have fairly large proportion of rural population. In the Northeast, 245 counties met this 30 percent criterion. These 245 counties were classified on the basis of changes in population and median family income between 1960 and 1970 in order to identify "more developing" (growing) counties, "average" (stable) counties, and "less developing" (declining) counties. The counties were ranked separately from high to low for family income and population change. Each array was divided into quintiles. Counties located in the first, third and fifth quintiles for both arrays (population and income change) were identified. Thus, the high growth counties in the finally selected stratum were in the first quintile on both measures. They had grown more rapidly in terms of population and median family income from 1960 to 1970 than the average. Those counties in the fifth stratum had the greatest population loss and had a smaller income increase than the average. The third quintile tended to reflect what was typically, or "on the average," happening in the region with regard to population and income change. For the nine northeastern states participating in the household survey phase of the project, 40 counties were in either the first, third or fifth quintiles. Researchers at the participating Agricultural Experiment Stations selected site counties from the 40 counties meeting the selection criteria.[3] Selected characteristics of these sites are presented in Appendix Table 1.

After the site counties had been selected, the New England states and New Jersey delineated smaller areas for study. In these states the political entity which either directly provides public services or is responsible for decisions about their provision (control unit) is the minor civil division (MCD). In the states where the MCD was identified as the control unit, element sampling was done within MCD's. This may

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1 For a detailed statement of various dimensions of the overall regional project see: Derr, Ploch and Sinclair, 1975.

2 For purpose of this research the Northeast was defined as (1) New England: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island; (2) Middle Atlantic States: New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania; and (3) part of the South Atlantic Region: Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia.

3 Three additional counties were added to the 40 specifically identified by use of the selection criteria. To accomodate state research interests, one county in Massachusetts and one county in West Viginia was added to the "average" or "stable" category, and one county in West Virginia was added to the "less developing" or "declining" category.

have been a single MCD (Massachusetts and New Jersey) or groupings of MCD's (Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont). In the other states (Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia), the county was the unit from which samples were drawn. A random area sample design was used in each control unit.[4] The location of the sample sites is shown in Figure 1.

A total of 2,141 completed and useable interviews provide the data for regional analysis.[5] The typical interview took about 45 minutes. An average of two calls was required per completed questionnaire. The households in declining communities constituted 41 percent of the sample, followed by those in stable (40 percent) and expanding areas (20 percent).

Analytic Procedures

The null hypothesis being tested throughout this report is: there are no differences among declining, stable, and expanding growth development areas in the nonmetropolitan Northeast in terms of demographic and household characteristics.

The importance of the growth development status can best be depicted by the work of Brown on the social and economic characteristics of growing and declining nonmetropolitan counties (Brown, 1975, p.22). Declining areas generally have higher age dependency ratios (higher proportion of people less than 18 years of age and 65 years of age and over relative to middle aged categories), more females, lower educational attainment and smaller household income. Brown (1975, p.22) indicates that this has implications "for the demand for housing units, and for the delivery of community, health and social services."

Hines, Brown and Zimmer (1975) indicate that metro areas are generally better off than nonmetro areas. However, there is great variability within each of these two categories (metro and nonmetro). Low income, low educational attainment and high age dependency ratios, etc., are not the domain of nonmetro areas only. This finding is well summarized by their concluding statement, "Hence, geographic variation

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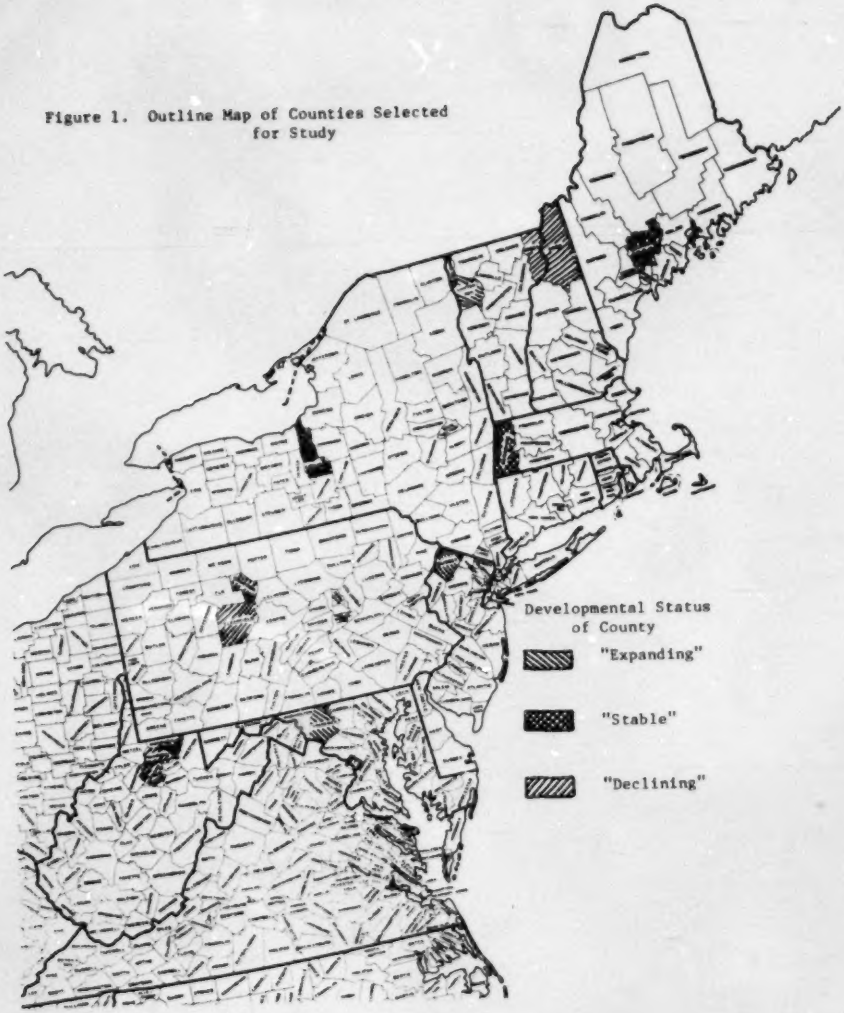
4 The basic control unit sample procedures was, each sample area (MCD or county) was stratified on the basis of population density as determined by number of households. A grid map was first developed and the number of households in each cell counted. If the cells contained more than seven households, further griding was done until three to seven households existed per cell. The cells were then numbered and randomly selected so that there would be a minimum sample of 100 per control unit (MCD or county). For more densely populated areas, census tracts or city blocks were used initially. Further griding was done until each cell contained three to seven sample households.

5 Data for all control sites except those in Massachusetts and New York were collected during the summer, 1974. The Massachusetts and New York data were collected in late 1974 and early 1975.

Figure 1. Outline Map of Counties Selected for Study



is a fundamental issue which must be considered in future research and in the development of public policy" (Hines, Brown and Zimmer, 1975, p.64).

Chi-square was used to test for significant differences for qualitative variables and grouped data. For ungrouped data and quantitative variables, analysis of variance was used to test for significant differences. The minimum level of significance was considered to be .05. However, in many cases, the level of significance was .01 or less.

Demographic Characteristics

The size and composition of a population places demands upon community facilities and services and also influences the ability of an area to support its facilities and service system. Thus, it is important that demographic characteristics be examined to determine if differences do exist among sites with differing growth rates. The variables examined in this section include age and sex composition of the population, household size, and age, education attainment and major activity of the household head and household income. Emphasis is placed on difference in growth development status (expanding, stable or declining) of the communities.

Age and Sex Composition

Age and sex characteristics of a population influence the demand for housing, health, educational, transportation and other county services. Two measures reflecting differences between the age and sex composition of areas are the dependency ratio and sex ratio.[6] The Northeast sample had an age dependency ratio of 84.0 (Table 1). This is comparable to the 1970 ratio of 83.4 for the nonmetro Northeast reported by Hines, Brown and Zimmer (1975); the Northeast metro area ratio for the same year was 75.8. The ratio for the declining category was higher (89.5) than the ratio for the stable (80.7) or expanding communities (80.1).

Declining areas have lower sex ratios than growing areas (Brown, 1975, p.11). Brown in his comparison of growing and declining nonmetro counties reported that the 1970 sex ratio was 98.9 for the growing nonsouth nonmetropolitan counties and 95.6 for similar declining counties. Sex ratios in the nonmetropolitan Northeast study area were 100.3 for expanding areas and 97.1 for declining areas.

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6 The dependency ratio is computed by dividing the number of persons under 18 years of age plus persons 65 years old and over by the number of persons 18 to 64 years of age and multiplying by 100. The sex ratio is males per 100 females.

Table 1. Distribution of Households by Age Dependency and Sex Ratio and Growth Status, Northeast United States, 1974-75.

Ratio	Growth Status			
	Declining	Stable	Expanding	Total
Age Dependency[1]	89.5	80.7	80.1	84.0
Sex[2]	97.1	98.2	100.3	98.2

1 Population under 18 years of age and 65 years old and older, divided by population 18 through 64 years of age x 100.
2 All males divided by all females x 100. Number of males per 100 females.

The above differences result in part from the increasing life span of females, the decline of traditionally male-oriented employment (agriculture, forestry and mining) in the region, and past migration patterns. The greater dependency burden in declining areas in contrast to the stable and expanding areas demonstrates that the areas experiencing population loss and relatively small increases in family income had a greater number of dependents per worker than did stable and expanding areas.

Household Size

The average number of persons per household for the total sample was 3.39 people; for declining areas 3.31, for stable areas 3.39 and for expanding areas 3.55 people (Table 2). Among growth areas, average household size was not significantly different. However, when the households were distributed by persons per household (from 1 person to 7 or more persons per household) the differences were significant (Table 3). The modal household size for the three growth status areas was two persons. The expanding areas contained more households with three, four and five persons as compared to the declining and stable areas. One of the largest variations occurred for households containing only one person -- 11, 9 and 6 percent, respectively, for declining, stable and expanding communities. The high proportion of one person households can, in large part, be accounted for by elderly females living alone. LeRay, Derr and Jansen (1977) reported that for elderly females in the sample (60 years of age or more) 65 percent were residing by themselves.

Table 2. Distribution of People and Households, by Growth Status, Northeast United States, 1974-75.

Growth Status	Households		Persons		Average Household Size	Standard Deviation	Persons per Household	
							Minimum	Maximum
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.		No.	No.
Declining	869	40.6	2,878	39.6	3.31	1.80	1	14
Stable	850	39.7	2,880	39.7	3.39	1.79	1	11
Expanding	422	19.7	1,499	20.7	3.55	1.68	1	11
Total	2,141	100.0	7,257	100.0	3.39	1.78	1	14

$F(2,2138) = 3.21$, $p > .05$

Table 3. Distribution of Nonmetropolitan Households by Household Size and Growth Status, Northeast United States, 1974-75.

Household Size	Growth Status							
	Declining		Stable		Expanding		Total	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
1 person	98	11.3	79	9.3	24	5.7	201	9.4
2 persons	273	31.4	266	31.3	114	27.0	653	30.5
3 persons	153	17.6	151	17.8	88	20.9	392	18.3
4 persons	148	17.0	163	19.2	85	20.1	396	18.5
5 persons	88	10.1	78	9.2	63	14.9	229	10.7
6 persons	56	6.4	53	6.2	26	6.2	135	6.3
7 or more	53	6.1	60	7.1	22	5.2	135	6.3
Total	869	100.0	850	100.0	422	100.0	2,141	100.0

Chi-Square = 26.10 d.f. = 12 P <.05

Household Head

The characteristics of the head of household, to a considerable degree, reflects both the ability of a household to adjust to change and the demand for community services. In this section the growth development status of areas are compared by characteristics of household heads.

Age, Sex, and Marital Status -- The average age of all household heads was 49.9 years (Table 4). Differences were significant among growth status; declining areas had older heads of household (51.7 years) than the stable (49.1 years) and expanding ones, young heads (47.7 years). The largest variation for the age categories existed for 65 years and over (the elderly), and for 25-44 years of age (younger working age). Declining areas had the highest proportion of elderly household heads (26 percent) and the lowest proportion of younger working age heads (33 percent). Eighty-two percent of the household heads were married, 11 percent widowed, 4 percent never married and 3 percent divorced or separated (Table 5). Differences by growth status were significant with the declining areas reporting a higher proportion of widows (13 percent) than the stable (11 percent) and expanding areas (8 percent). This characteristic relates, in part, to the larger proportion of one-person households and elderly household heads in declining areas as noted above. Eighty-seven percent of all households had male heads and 13 percent had female heads (Table 6). Differences between growth groupings were not significant.

Education Attainment -- For the total sample, nearly 60 percent of the household heads had at least 12 years of formal education (Table 7). One-third had received between 8-11 years of schooling, and the balance, 7 percent, less than eight years. Declining areas had the highest proportion of household heads with less than 12 years of education (44 percent); for stable and expanding areas, the respective figures were 41 and 31 percent.

Expanding communities had household heads with the highest proportion with education beyond high school (37 percent). Comparable figures for the other two groupings (declining and stable) were 20 and 24 percent, respectively. Educational attainment differences among the growth areas were significant.

Table 4. Distribution of Households by Age of Household Head and Growth Status, Northeast United States, 1974-75.

Age of Household Head (years)	Growth Status							
	Declining		Stable		Expanding		Total	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Less than 25	30	3.5	45	5.3	20	4.8	95	4.5
25 - 44	281	32.6	297	35.1	169	40.4	747	35.1
45 - 64	327	37.9	336	39.7	163	39.0	826	38.8
65 & over	225	26.1	168	19.9	66	15.8	459	21.6
Total	863	100.0	846	100.0	418	100.0	2,127	100.0
Average[1] age (yrs)	51.7		49.1		47.7		49.9	

Chi-square = 24.43 d.f. = 6 p <.001
1 F(2,2124) = 9.93 p <.001

Table 5. Distribution of Households by Marital Status of Head of Household and Growth Status, Northeast United States, 1974-75.

Marital Status	Growth Status							
	Declining		Stable		Expanding		Total	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Married	702	81.0	690	81.5	359	85.1	1,751	82.0
Widowed	114	13.1	89	10.5	35	8.3	238	11.1
Never married	23	2.7	34	4.0	20	4.7	77	3.6
Divorced, separated	28	3.2	34	4.0	8	1.9	70	3.3
Total	867	100.0	847	100.0	422	100.0	2,136	100.0

Chi-square = 15.09 d.f. = 6 P <.05

Table 6. Distribution of Households by Sex of Household Head and Growth Status, Northeast United States, 1974-75.

Sex of Household Head	Growth Status							
	Declining		Stable		Expanding		Total	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Male	751	86.4	727	85.7	374	88.6	1,852	86.6
Female	118	13.6	121	14.3	48	11.4	287	13.4
Total	869	100.0	848	100.0	422	100.0	2,139	100.0

Chi-square = 2.06 d.f. = 2 P >.05

Table 7. Distribution of Households by Years of Education of Head of Household and Growth Status, Northeast United States, 1974-75.

Years of Education	Growth Status							
	Declining		Stable		Expanding		Total	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Less than 8	66	7.8	47	5.7	37	9.0	150	7.2
8 - 11	306	36.1	290	34.9	92	22.3	688	32.9
12	310	36.6	296	35.6	131	31.7	737	35.2
Greater than 12	165	19.5	198	23.8	153	37.0	516	24.7
Total	847	100.0	831	100.0	413	100.0	2,091	100.0

Chi-square = 59.86 d.f. = 6 P <.001

Work Status -- The work status of household heads is closely related to the variables previously discussed. For example, areas with relatively high ratios of elderly traditionally have high ratios of retired people. Therefore, as expected, the declining areas had the highest proportion of retired heads of households (24 percent) followed by the stable areas (20 percent) and the growing areas (17 percent) (Table 8). The most frequently reported activity of the household heads surveyed was full-time nonfarm work. This category accounted for 81 percent of the total. Little variation in full-time nonfarm work status existed between declining (59 percent) and stable (60 percent) areas; the expanding category (68 percent) was, however, higher than the other two. Declining areas had the lowest proportion of full-time farm operators (4 percent). Differences among the growth groupings were significant.

Household Income

This section presents data on differences in source and amount of household income among the three growth types. These differences are partly explained by variables discussed in preceeding sections of this report. Household income influences the ability of a family to purchase services from the private sector, to support public sector services, and the need for services from both the public and private sector.

Sources -- Households in the study area reported income from a number of sources. Wages and salaries were the most frequently reported source of income in all areas; 66 percent in declining areas, 70 percent in stable areas, and 73 percent in expanding areas (Table 9). This same relationship held for self-employment income with only 17 percent of households in declining areas reporting income from this source compared with 20 percent in the stable areas and 23 percent in growing areas. On the other hand, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Black Lung, Railroad Retirement and other retirement programs were reported most frequently by households in declining areas (32 percent) followed by stable areas (29 percent) and expanding areas (22 percent). Interest and dividends were most frequently reported by households in expanding areas (39 percent). With the exception of veterans payments, differences among the growth sites were significant.

Amount -- Household incomes were significantly lower in declining than in stable or expanding areas. Median household income in declining areas was about $2,800 less than in expanding areas. Over half (53 percent) of the households in declining areas had 1973 incomes of less than $10,000 compared with 44 percent for the stable areas and 36 percent for the growing areas (Table 10). Fifty-two percent of the households in the expanding areas had incomes of $12,000 or more compared with 41 percent for the stable and 29 percent for the declining areas.

Table 8. Distribution of Households by Work Status of Head of Household and Growth Status, Northeast United States, 1974-75.

Work Status	Growth Status							
	Declining		Stable		Expanding		Total	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Nonfarm:								
Full-time	511	58.9	506	59.7	286	67.8	1,303	61.0
Part-time	20	2.3	23	2.7	14	3.3	57	2.7
Farm	30	3.5	51	6.0	26	6.2	107	5.0
Housewife	49	5.6	26	3.1	7	1.7	82	3.8
Unable to work	28	3.2	28	3.3	4	.9	60	2.8
Retired	204	23.5	170	20.1	72	17.1	446	20.9
Unemployed	17	2.0	19	2.2	4	.9	40	1.9
Other[1]	9	1.0	24	2.8	9	2.1	42	2.0
Total	868	100.0	847	100.0	422	100.0	2,137	100.0

[1] Includes looking for work, students and military personnel.
Chi-square = 48.35 d.f.=14 p <.001

Table 9. Distribution of Households by Sources of Income and Growth Status, Northeast United States, 1974-75.

Source of Income[1]	Growth Status							
	Declining		Stable		Expanding		Total	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Wages or salary[2]	557	66.3	580	70.3	301	72.9	1,438	69.2
Self-employment[3]	139	16.7	162	19.6	96	23.3	397	19.2
Interest, Dividends[4]	262	31.6	243	29.5	162	39.2	667	32.3
Social Security, Black Lung, Railroad Retirement, SSI, and other retirements[5]	263	31.6	239	29.0	89	21.6	591	28.6
Veterans payments[6]	55	6.6	55	6.6	23	5.6	133	6.4
Unemployment Compensation[7]	36	4.3	64	7.8	9	2.2	109	5.3

1 Household head typically reported more than one source of income.
2 Chi-square = 6.39 d.f. = 2 $p < .05$
3 Chi-square = 7.96 d.f. = 2 $p < .05$
4 Chi-square = 12.28 d.f. = 2 $p < .01$
5 Chi-square = 13.64 d.f. = 2 $p < .01$
6 Chi-square = 0.62 d.f. = 2 $p > .05$
7 Chi-square = 19.57 d.f. = 2 $p < .001$

Table 10. Distribution of Households by Income before Taxes (1973) of Households and Growth Status, Northeast United States, 1974-75.

Income before Taxes	Growth Status							
	Declining		Stable		Expanding		Total	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Less than $3,000	79	10.1	47	6.3	26	6.8	152	8.0
3,000 - 4,999	89	11.4	57	7.6	36	9.4	182	9.5
5,000 - 7,999	142	18.2	131	17.5	49	12.9	322	16.9
8,000 - 9,999	106	13.6	92	12.3	28	7.3	226	11.8
10,000 - 11,999	137	17.6	116	15.5	44	11.5	297	15.5
12,000 - 14,999	107	13.7	102	13.6	65	17.1	274	14.3
15,000 - 19,999	71	9.1	114	15.2	62	16.3	247	12.9
20,000 - 24,999	27	3.5	46	6.1	33	8.7	106	5.5
25,000 and over	22	2.8	44	5.9	38	10.0	104	5.4
Total	780	100.0	749	100.0	381	100.0	1,910	100.0
Median income[1]	$9,500		$10,800		$12,300		$10,500	

Chi-square = 88.25 d.f. = 16 p <.001

1 Rounded to the nearest hundred dollars.

Length of Residence

Residents located in the declining areas generally had lived at their current address, in the community and the county longer, and were more likely not to have ever lived in another county than were residents in other growth status areas (Tables 11, 12, 13 and 14). For example, only 21 percent in the declining group had resided nine years or less at their community as compared to 45 percent for expanding communities. Over 60 percent in declining areas had lived in the county 30 or more years compared with 50 percent in expanding areas. While 75 percent of the household heads in expanding areas had resided in other counties, only 61 percent of the declining groups had.

Table 11. Distribution of Households by Length of Residence at Current Address of Head of Household and Growth Status, Northeast United States, 1974-75.

Length of Residence at Current Address (yrs.)	Growth Status							
	Declining		Stable		Expanding		Total	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
1 or less	107	12.3	112	13.2	58	13.8	277	12.9
2 - 4	132	15.2	161	19.0	111	26.4	404	18.9
5 - 9	139	16.0	139	16.4	89	21.1	367	17.2
10 - 14	93	10.7	99	11.7	50	11.9	242	11.3
15 or more	398	45.8	338	39.8	113	26.8	849	39.7
Total	869	100.0	849	100.0	421	100.0	2,139	100.0
Average[1]	17.00		15.29		11.07		15.16	

Chi-square = 50.36 d.f. = 8 p <.001
1 F(2,2136) = 21.169 p <.001

Table 12. Distribution of Households by Length of Residence in Community of Head of Household and Growth Status, Northeast United States, 1974-75.

Years in Community	Growth Status							
	Declining		Stable		Expanding		Total	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
1 year	47	5.4	51	6.0	39	9.3	137	6.4
2 - 4	66	7.6	97	11.4	75	17.9	238	11.2
5 - 9	73	8.4	85	10.0	74	17.6	232	10.9
10 - 14	72	8.3	74	8.7	47	11.2	193	9.0
15 - 19	57	6.6	61	7.2	34	8.1	152	7.1
20 - 24	81	9.4	104	12.2	34	8.1	219	10.3
25 - 29	79	9.1	58	6.8	33	7.9	170	8.0
30 or more	390	45.1	319	37.6	84	20.0	793	37.2
Total	865	100.0	849	100.0	420	100.0	2,134	100.0
Average[1]		29.56		26.11		17.43		25.80

Chi-square = 116.71 d.f. = 14 p <.001
1 F(2,2131) = 51.607 p <.001

Table 13. Distribution of Households by Length of Residence in County of Head of Household and Growth Status, Northeast United States, 1974-75.

Years in County	Growth Status							
	Declining		Stable		Expanding		Total	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
1 Year	25	2.9	31	3.7	29	6.9	85	4.0
2 - 4	36	4.2	58	6.8	55	13.1	149	7.0
5 - 9	48	5.6	71	8.4	64	15.2	183	8.6
10 - 14	49	5.7	49	5.8	45	10.7	143	6.7
15 - 19	45	5.2	46	5.4	31	7.4	122	5.7
20 - 24	70	8.1	96	11.3	37	8.8	203	9.5
25 - 29	69	8.0	72	8.5	31	7.4	172	8.1
30 or more	518	60.2	425	50.1	128	30.5	1,071	50.3
Total	860	100.0	848	100.0	420	100.0	2,128	100.0
Average[1]	36.20		32.53		22.38		32.01	

Chi-square = 144.27 d.f. = 14 p <.001
1 F(2,2125) = 61.578 p <.001

Table 14. Distribution of Households by Heads of Households Residing Outside of Current County and Growth Status, Northeast United States, 1974-75.

Lived Outside of County	Growth Status							
	Declining		Stable		Expanding		Total	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Yes	525	60.7	539	63.6	317	75.3	1,381	64.7
No	340	39.3	308	36.4	104	24.7	752	35.3
Total	865	100.0	847	100.0	421	100.0	2,133	100.0

Chi-square = 27.21 d.f. = 2 $p < .001$

Summary and Conclusions

This report, provides background information about demographic and household characteristics among selected growth development sites in the nonmetropolitan Northeast. The null hypothesis that there are no household differences among declining, stationary, and expanding areas is rejected.

Declining areas, when compared with stationary areas and expanding areas, are characterized by a relatively high dependency ratio. The differences in age composition indicate a relative deficit in declining areas of individuals of labor force age. Those that are of working age in declining areas have a relatively high proportion of young people and elderly dependent upon them for food, clothing, shelter, health care and other needs.

Differences in dependency ratios are manifest at the household level. A significantly higher proportion of household heads in declining areas are elderly, retired, and/or widowed. In addition, a relatively high proportion have received less than 12 years of schooling.

As would be anticipated from the above, a significantly higher proportion of households in declining areas had relatively lower incomes than those in stationary or growing areas. Wages and salaries and self-employment earnings were less frequently reported as an income source in declining areas while retirement and transfer payment sources were reported more frequently. Thus, the areas with relatively high proportions of households with low income, low labor force participation and high dependency ratios are also the same areas having household heads least able to raise household incomes through increased

participation in the labor force because of a combination of factors -- primarily advanced age and low educational attainment. Although low educational attainment can be overcome by additional schooling, the problem of advanced age would still be an obstable for many to income improvement.

Communities in declining areas are less able to draw upon households to finance community facilities and services than are those in stable and expanding communities. If declining counties are not able to "turn around" the population decline, the potential for "self-help" is very limited. The differences between declining and stable and expanding areas are fundamental and raise important policy questions concerning state and national support and aid for community facilities and services. For example, should declining areas receive special state aid and/or federal aid to provide community facilities and services? Should these areas receive special assistance in and encouragement for economic growth and development? If so, what would be the impact on stationary and expanding communities and national economic development? Brown (1975, p.24), in his study of growing and declining nonmetropolitan counties concluded that "...basically, aid is needed to enhance standards of living for persons who live in communities bypassed by the process of national economic development." The basic question is, "How much aid should be provided?"

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Appendix Table 1 -- Total Population 1960-1970, Percent Population Change 1960-1970, Total Square Miles, and Persons per Square Mile for Counties and/or Survey Sites, Northeast United States.

Site	Households Interviewed	Population 1960	Population 1970	Population Change 1960-1970	Growth Status code[1] For County	Square Miles	Persons Per Sq. Mile (1970)
	Number	Number		Percent		Number	Number
County defined as "control unit":							
Maryland							
Frederick Co.	124	71,930	84,927	18.1	E	665	128
New York							
Cayuga Co.	506	73,942	77,439	4.7	S	698	111
Pennsylvania							
Cameron Co.	100	7,586	7,096	- 6.5	D	401	18
Clearfield Co.	202	81,534	74,619	- 8.5	D	1,139	66
West Virginia							
Harrison Co.	108	77,856	73,028	- 6.2	D	418	175
Marion Co.	102	63,717	61,356	- 3.7	D	311	197
Monongalia Co.	85	55,617	63,714	14.6	S	365	175
Town or group(s) of towns defined as "control unit":							
New Jersey							
Sussex Co.							
Vernon Twp.	140	2,155	6,059	181.2	-	68	89
Total-Sussex Co.	-	49,255	77,528	57.4	E	527	147

Appendix Table 1 (Continued) -- Total Population 1960-1970, Percent Population Change 1960-1970, Total Square Miles, and Persons per Square Mile for Counties and/or Survey Sites, Northeast United States.

Site	Households Interviewed	Population 1960	Population 1970	Population Change 1960-1970	Growth Status code For County[1]	Square Miles	Persons Per Sq. Mile (1970)
	Number	Number		Percent		Number	Number
Massachusetts							
Berkshire Co.							
Adams	107	12,391	11,772	- 5.0	-	23	512
Total-Berkshire	-	142,135	149,402	5.1	S	941	159
Maine							
Kennebec Co.							
Rome	23	367	362	- 1.4	-	24	15
Randolph	57	1,724	1,741	1.0	-	20	87
Vassalboro	72	2,446	2,618	7.0	-	45	58
Total Site Towns	152	4,537	4,721	4.1	-	89	53
Total - Kennebec	-	89,150	95,247	6.8	S	872	109
New Hampshire							
Coos Co.							
Area #1:							
Berlin	100	17,821	15,256	-14.4	-	57	267
Area #2:							
Recreation							
Carroll	4	295	310	5.1	-	52	6
Gorham	36	3,039	2,998	- 1.3	-	35	85
Jefferson	8	600	714	19.0	-	51	14
Whitefield	19	1,581	1,538	- 2.7	-	35	44
Total Area #2	67	5,515	5,560	.8	-	173	32

Appendix Table 1 (Continued) -- Total Population 1960-1970, Percent Population Change 1960-1970, Total Square Miles, and Persons per Square Mile for Counties and/or Survey Sites, Northeast United States.

Site	Households Interviewed	Population 1960	Population 1970	Population Change 1960-1970	Growth Status code For County[1]	Square Miles	Persons Per Sq. Mile (1970)
	Number	Number		Percent		Number	Number
Area #3							
Agricultural							
Clarksville	14	179	166	- 7.3	-	55	3
Colebrook	11	2,389	2,094	-12.3	-	42	50
Dalton	9	567	425	-25.0	-	28	15
Lancaster	22	3,138	3,166	.9	-	52	61
Northumberland (Groveton)	14	2,586	2,493	- 3.6	-	37	67
Pittsburgh	15	639	726	13.6	-	297	2
Stratford	15	1,029	980	- 4.8	-	81	12
Total Area #3	100	10,527	10,050	- 4.5	-	591	17
Total Site Towns	267	33,863	30,866	- 8.9	-	821	38
Total Coos Co.	-	37,140	34,291	- 7.7	D	1,820	19
Vermont - Site No. 1							
Essex Co.							
Brighton	40	1,545	1,365	-11.7	-	45	30
Canaan	25	1,094	949	-13.3	-	30	32
Lunenburg	25	1,237	1,061	-14.2	-	40	26
Total Site Towns	90	3,876	3,375	-12.9	-	115	29
Total Essex Co.	-	6,083	5,416	-11.0	D	663	8

Appendix Table 1 (Continued) -- Total Population 1960-1970, Percent Population Change 1960-1970, Total Square Miles, and Persons per Square Mile for Counties and/or Survey Sites, Northeast United States.

Site	Households Interviewed	Population 1960	Population 1970	Population Change 1960-1970	Growth Status code For County	Square Miles	Persons Per Sq. Mile (1970)
	Number	Number		Percent		Number	Number
Vermont - Site No. 2[2]							
Chittenden Co.							
Burlington	76	35,531	38,633	8.7	-	36	1,073
Underhill	25	730	1,198	64.1	-	49	24
Williston	40	1,484	3,187	114.8	-	29	110
Grand Isle Co.							
So. Hero	17	614	868	41.4	-	13	66
Total Site Towns	158	38,359	43,886	14.4	-	127	346
Total Chittenden	-	74,425	99,131	33.2	E	533	186
Total Grand Isle	-	2,927	3,574	22.1	E	83	43

1 "E" signifies "more developing" or expanding, "S" signifies "average or stable, "D" signifies "less developing" or declining, as these three categories are defined in the text.

2 The three towns in Chittenden Co. and the town of South Hero in Grand Isle Co. were together considered as the second "site" for Vermont.

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